



FACT SHEET

African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) African Countries Benefit from AGOA

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Since implementation in 2001, the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) has opened U.S. markets to duty-free imports of African goods and continues to boost two-way trade between the United States and sub-Saharan Africa. Products have broadened from traditional commodities like cocoa beans to high-value items like fresh citrus and fresh-cut flowers. AGOA also supports investment, market linkages and trade capacity building programs to help African economies. In 2006, total U.S. imports under AGOA were \$44.2 billion, 16 percent more than in 2005. Imports of agricultural products increased 33 percent to \$360.8 million. Agricultural trade with the United States has accelerated by 2.5 times the pre-AGOA annual growth rates. Trade capacity building and technical assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) have helped the 38 AGOA member-countries in many ways:

- Average annual growth rates for the top-four products exported to the United States have grown dramatically (pre-AGOA to 2006): cocoa beans, 6.8 to 16.8 percent; unroasted coffee, 0.5 to 19.9 percent; raw sugar cane, -3.2 to 9.8 percent; and oranges, NA to 25.8 percent.
- New products have been approved for export to the United States, including table grapes from Namibia, baby corn and baby carrots from Zambia, and shelled peas from Kenya.
- In 2006 and early 2007, USDA conducted an initial assessment and report of Namibia's regulatory system for meat products. USDA is currently training Namibians on the U.S. equivalency system and U.S. sanitary and hygiene standards. With training and guidance from the assessment, Namibia can work to improve conditions in slaughterhouses, laboratories and monitoring systems to U.S. standards.
- In 2006, the USDA Cochran Fellowship Program provided training in the United States to 61 participants from 10 AGOA countries. The program provides short-term agricultural training for mid- and senior-level public or private professionals in areas of agricultural trade, marketing, management, policy, food safety, and technology transfer. The USDA Borlaug Fellowship Program reached out to 48 recipients from 10 AGOA countries. The Borlaug Africa – Women in Science program promotes gender equity among the scientific community by offering training and collaborative research opportunities in international

agricultural science, leadership and policy at U.S. government sites, universities and research centers. Since 2006, 22 Women in Science have trained in the United States.

- In late 2006, USDA and USAID launched a 5-year, \$11.5-million AGOA sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) program to build capacity in plant and animal health and food safety systems. The collaborative effort is helping officials from Senegal and Mali develop more stringent protocols for processed foods inspections; it is supporting Ghanaian officials as they institute and manage a successful systems approach to combating whitefly infestations; and it is helping four East African countries develop specialists to manage a country specific plant pest database with global positioning system capabilities.
- Under similar collaborative efforts through 2006, USDA trained more than 400 people from 35 countries in sub-Saharan Africa on a wide variety of issues related to pest risk assessment (PRA). USDA experts also evaluated Kenya's packhouses and assisted the country's efforts to export fine beans to the United States; conducted pest mitigation activities in Senegal; and helped Madagascar on plant pest surveillance and mitigation techniques to help improve regulatory and trade capacity.